CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. A portable toilet bowl cover, for use by a user, in 5 conjunction with an existing toilet bowl of a public restroom, for selectively covering portions of the toilet bowl, in order to prevent waste and germs present on said portions of the toilet bowl from contacting the skin or clothing of the user while sitting upon the toilet bowl, said 10 toilet bowl having a bowl portion having a rim, a front, a back, a left side, and a right side, said toilet bowl also having a substantially circular seat hingeably attached to the bowl portion in proximity to the back of the bowl portion, and a lid for selectively covering the seat while 15 the toilet bowl is not being used, said seat having a top, a bottom, a front, a back, a left side, a right side, and a central opening, said seat having a raised position wherein the seat has been lifted away from the rim of the bowl portion, and a lowered position wherein the seat has been 20 lowered upon the rim of the bowl portion, said toilet bowl cover comprising:

a central seat pad having a front edge portion, a back edge portion, a left edge portion, and a right edge portion, wherein the front edge portion has a front flap extending therefrom, the back edge portion has a back flap extending therefrom, the left edge portion has a left flap extending

therefrom, and the right edge portion has a right flap extending therefrom, wherein the back flap has a three-ply structure, comprising an upper plastic layer, a lower plastic layer, and a cardboard insert sandwiched therebetween, for conferring additional rigidity to the back flap, for making the toilet bowl cover more durable, and for allowing the back flap to remain substantially upright in order that it may rest against the lid of the toilet bowl while the toilet bowl cover is being deployed, wherein each of the flaps has an upper surface, a lower surface, an arcuate top, two sides, and a bottom, and wherein the flaps are attached at their tops to the central seat pad; and

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wherein the toilet bowl cover has an unfolded position

15 wherein each of the flaps is extended away from the seat pad,
and has a folded position wherein each of the flaps is folded
substantially flat against the seat pad in order that the
toilet bowl cover will be compact and easily transported.

20 2. The portable toilet bowl cover as recited in claim 1, wherein the upper surface of the right flap and the upper surface of the left flap each have three pockets extending substantially from the top to the bottom of said flaps, and each having an opening in proximity to the top of the right flap, wherein each of said flaps has a proximal pocket closer to the front of the bowl portion while the toilet bowl cover is being deployed, a distal pocket closer to the back of the

bowl portion while the toilet bowl cover is being deployed, and a middle pocket sandwiched therebetween, said pockets for selectively holding existing toiletries.

- 5 3. The portable toilet bowl cover as recited in claim 2, wherein the seat pad has a three-ply structure, comprising an upper plastic layer, a lower plastic layer, and a cardboard insert sandwiched therebetween, for conferring additional rigidity to the seat pad, and for making the toilet bowl cover more durable.
- 4. The portable toilet bowl cover as recited in claim 3, wherein the lower plastic layer of the seat pad rests upon the seat while the toilet bowl cover is being deployed, and wherein the upper surfaces of the flaps and the upper plastic layer of the seat pad are visible while the toilet bowl cover is being deployed.
- 5. The portable toilet bowl cover as recited in claim 4,
 20 wherein while being utilized to selectively cover portions of
 the toilet bowl, the seat is completely covered by the
 central seat pad, the front of the bowl portion is
 substantially covered by the front flap, the left side of the
 bowl portion is substantially covered by the left flap, the
 25 right side of the bowl portion is substantially covered by
 the right flap, and the lid is substantially covered by the
 back flap, in order that the toilet bowl cover protects the

skin and clothing of the user seated upon the toilet bowl from waste material present on the seat, the bowl portion, and the lid.

5 6. The portable toilet bowl cover as recited in claim 5, wherein the front flap, the right flap, and the left flap, are constructed from a flexible plastic material, so that they will hang down and cover the bowl portion while the toilet bowl cover is being deployed.

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- 7. The portable toilet bowl cover as recited in claim 6, wherein the central seat pad is substantially circular.
- 8. A method of preventing waste and germs present upon an
 15 existing toilet bowl of a public restroom from contacting the
 skin and clothing of a user while sitting upon the toilet
 bowl, said toilet bowl having a seat having a front, a back,
 a left side, and a right side, said toilet bowl further
 having a bowl portion having a right side, a left side, a
- front, and a back, said toilet bowl further having a lid, said method utilizing a portable toilet bowl cover which may be selectively folded, said toilet bowl cover having a central seat pad having a front edge portion, a back edge portion, a left edge portion, a right edge portion, and a
- lower layer, said central seat pad having a right flap, a left flap, a front flap, and a back flap extending therefrom, said method comprising the steps of:

carrying a folded portable toilet bowl cover by the user when the need for a public restroom may arise;

5 unfolding the toilet bowl cover prior to sitting down on the seat of the toilet bowl;

positioning the central seat pad over the toilet seat, with the front edge portion positioned above the front of the toilet seat, the back edge portion positioned above the back of the toilet seat, the left edge portion positioned above the left side of the toilet seat, and the right edge portion positioned above the right side of the toilet seat;

substantially covering the toilet bowl with the toilet bowl cover by vertically lowering the lower layer of the seat pad onto the toilet seat, and allowing the right flap, the left flap, and the front flap to hang down and substantially cover the right side of the bowl portion, the left side of the bowl portion, and the front of the bowl portion, respectively, and covering the lid with the back flap, and thereby preventing the waste and germs present on the bowl portion, the seat, and the lid from contacting the skin or clothing of the user while sitting upon the toilet bowl;

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folding the toilet bowl cover after use of the toilet bowl is completed; and

carrying the toilet bowl cover by the user upon exiting the restroom.